

**METHOD OF DELETING UNNECESSARY INFORMATION
FROM A DATABASE**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computer-implemented method of managing documents related to a
5 patent application. In one embodiment the method includes storing a plurality
documents related to a patent application in a database accessible to a server system,
where each of the plurality of documents has a document type and where the plurality
of documents includes at least one document having a first document type and at least
one document having a second document type. The method also includes storing a rule
10 in the database that indicates specific document types to be deleted from the database in
response to a predetermined event occurring related to prosecution of the patent
application, where the rule indicates that documents of the second type should be
deleted but not documents of the first type; receiving a signal at the server system
indicating the predetermined event has occurred; and after receiving the signal,
15 implementing the rule to delete documents of the second type in the database that are
related to the patent application but not delete documents of the first type that are
related to the patent application.

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